

COPY

MESSAGE TO OVERSEAS COMMANDERS

1. At the request of the President, the Honorable Frank C. Nash, former Assistant Secretary of Defense, is undertaking a survey of our overseas bases, rights, and operating facilities. The President's letter to Mr. Nash outlining the scope and nature of the survey is quoted below. You will note that the President desires a wide ranging examination of all pertinent factors of this vital phase of our national security posture. The close collaboration and coordinated effort of the Department of State and the Department of Defense are needed to provide Mr. Nash with the necessary information and support. Secretary Wilson is personally very much interested in this undertaking, and has assured Mr. Nash of the complete cooperation and assistance of the Department of Defense.

2. Assistant Secretary of Defense Gray has been designated as the Department of Defense representative in all matters connected with Mr. Nash's survey. He will coordinate the Defense effort and act as the point of contact for liaison and coordination in Washington between the Departments of State and Defense. Mr. Gray will communicate directly with you concerning your specific tasks and you are authorized to address him directly on matters related to this survey. Copies of all such correspondence will be furnished the Department of the (Army) (Navy) (Air Force).

3. The fact that Mr. Nash has been requested by the President to undertake this study has been treated as highly confidential. Only those persons within the U.S. Government who are working on the project have knowledge of it. It is recognized that information on this matter, including the content of the letter from the President quoted below, will have to be divulged to those members of your staff and to those subordinate commanders having a working responsibility in the matter. However, it is apparent that if knowledge concerning this study should reach other governments, serious damage could be done to negotiations under way or in prospect. Therefore, it is essential that no information on this subject be revealed to other than U.S. personnel, and that only on a need-to-know basis. We, of course, recognize that in Washington it may become known that Mr. Nash is working on some governmental project and, accordingly, we have prepared a line which would be taken in response to any queries. The text of this guidance line is also quoted below for your information.

4. I wish particularly to emphasize that you and your appropriate subordinate commanders should establish personal contact and continuing collaboration in this undertaking with the Ambassador or other State Department representative on the spot. Concurrently with this message Secretary Dulles is informing appropriate Ambassadors of Mr. Nash's appointment and the nature of this survey, and is forwarding for their personal information a copy of the President's letter. The text of Secretary Dulles's basic letter is also quoted below for your information.

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5. The text of the President's letter to Mr. Nash follows:

6. There follows for your information the text of the guidance line which has been adopted here to handle questions:

"Mr. Frank C. Nash, attorney and formerly Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, has been appointed by the President to head a study by various interested United States Government Departments on United States military facilities and operating arrangements overseas. Upon the conclusion of his study Mr. Nash will make a report to the President through the Secretaries of State and Defense. It is expected that this report will provide the basis for continuing review of this subject."

7. The text of Secretary Dulles's letter to Ambassadors follows:

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